

REMARKS

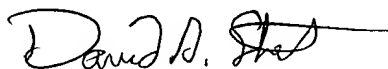
During the interview held May 4, 2006 (see, Interview Summary form dated May 4, 2006), the Examiner indicated that she had found the claims allowable pending review of an interference search. Subsequently, on May 16, 2006, the Examiner mailed a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner noted in her reasons for allowance that, *inter alia*, "no other prior art has been identified that teaches or suggests the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:4 or the nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3, nor the recombinant expression and biological functions of SEQ ID NO:3." See Notice of Allowability, Page 3.

The public version of the present file wrapper contains reports listing results of sequence searches conducted by or for the Examiner. Those results disclose, among other things, that PCT Publication WO 00/20593 A1, describes a sequence with 100% homology to the full-length, presently claimed sequence. One of the search reports bears a search date of May 2, 2006 (See entry 3 for the search conducted in database A_Geneseq_21:*) and another bears the date September 4, 2002 (See entry 4 for the search conducted in database A_Geneseq_03802:*)).

Based on discussions with the Examiner, Applicant understands that the Examiner had considered this published PCT application prior to mailing the Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, Applicant submits herewith a Form PTO-SB/08 listing the reference and respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the reference and return the signed form to the Applicant.

Applicant does not believe that the forgoing response and amendment affect the Examiner's determination that the claims of the present application are allowable. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this communication, please contact the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Attorney for the Applicant



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